

The Role of Uzbekistan in Promoting Peace, Stability, and Regional Integration in Central Asia

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ABSTRACT

Today, the scale of armed conflicts in the world is expanding at an unprecedented rate, posing an ever-increasing threat to international peace and stability. This article analyzes Uzbekistan's initiatives to strengthen mutual understanding and respect, close neighborliness, and strategic partnership in the Central Asian region. The article also analyzes the content of the strategic reforms being implemented to protect the region from various threats and ensure lasting peace and prosperity in the region.

Keywords: Solidarity; Peace; Security; Mutual Cooperation; Globalization; Foreign Policy; Cooperation; Parliament; Investment.

1. Introduction

Today, it is considered as the most advanced policy on a global scale, and it is a symbol of national and human solidarity and peace, and the rules of the geopolitical space. This concept has a rich meaning, it expresses the internal and external peace of the country, the well-being of citizens, the inviolability of borders and the stability of society. After all, the complex situation emerging in the Central Asian region and the world, the danger of terrorism, extremism and radicalism is increasing. Therefore, the issue of ensuring the security and stability of the countries of the world is gaining urgent importance.

1.1. Study Objectives

This study aims to examine Uzbekistan's role in fostering peace, stability, and regional integration in Central Asia. It analyzes the country's strategic foreign policy initiatives, efforts in resolving regional conflicts, promoting dialogue among neighbors, and strengthening multilateral cooperation. Additionally, the research explores how Uzbekistan's pragmatic diplomacy and constructive engagement contribute to building trust, sustainable development, and long-term regional prosperity.

2. Methodology

In studying the current dangerous era, when threats to peace and stability have become more acute on a global scale, scientific methods of knowledge such as analysis and synthesis, a complex approach, a systemic-functional approach, content analysis, retrospective analysis, dialectic, and synergetic were used.

3. Discussion

If we look at the history of world politics, we can see that since the beginning of time mankind has paid serious attention to the security of the country and provided it by military, religious or legal means.

In particular, in this regard, the ancient philosopher Plato explains the true desire of people to eliminate mutual wars and talks about the need to strengthen this desire, because it is virtue, goodness.

This can only happen when there is a law and it can only be done when the law works well. If the law commands to fight, then it is done for peace and not for war. Plato shows that prosperity alone is not enough for a person to live safely. In his work “The City of Virtuous People”, Farabi considers the city to be a mature form of social organization, a necessary means for humanity to reach perfection.

He calls all people to mutual cooperation, nations to peace, dreams of creating a single human community in the world [1]. Even in today's globalization, the issue of security and stability has not lost its place and importance.

It is not for nothing that a large amount of money is allocated for its effectiveness and it is studied by scientific research institutes.

In this regard, as a result of the open, pragmatic, wise and humanistic foreign policy conducted under the leadership of the head of state Sh.M.Mirziyoyev, he is serving to create a completely new environment of constructive cooperation with near and far foreign countries: “Fundamental reforms in our country in recent years, consistent and active foreign policy, especially the strengthening of the environment of close neighbors in the Central Asian region, further increase the international prestige of our country. The domestic and foreign policy of Uzbekistan, which is based on deep thought, pragmatic and concrete solutions, is being recognized by the international community for its vitality and response to the needs and interests of ordinary people” [2].

In fact, in the focus of the President's policy, his contribution to the security and prosperity of the Central Asian region is incomparable in strengthening peace and expanding cooperation with neighboring countries, turning the region into a safe and stable place. The main priority of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is the Central Asian region, and the vital interests of the country are closely related to this region.

The main directions of Uzbekistan's policy in Central Asia are ensuring peace and stability in the region, solving the most important problems of regional security, including helping to track down the situation in Afghanistan, solving the issues of using the resources of transboundary water bodies, completing the border delimitation and demarcation processes, ensuring ecological stability, taking effective measures to fight against transboundary imitations, all measures It is to promote close, beneficial and practical cooperation with other countries.

Uzbekistan will always support an open, friendly and pragmatic policy in its relations with its neighbors. It believes that all current political, economic and environmental problems in the region should be solved on the basis of mutual interests, practical dialogue and international law. It should be noted that the adoption of a number of resolutions of the UN General Assembly in recent years, including the resolution on “Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in Central Asia” is an international recognition of the efforts of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Today, the world community looks at the new Uzbekistan as a country of stable and rapidly developing democratic changes, a country of great opportunities and practical work [3]. The principle position of the foreign policy of the new Uzbekistan is explained by not joining any military-political blocs, not allowing the military bases and facilities of other countries to be located on the territory of our country, the non-participation of our military personnel in military operations outside the territory of our country, and adherence to solving all conflicts and conflicts only by political means.

Without being a member of any blocs, Uzbekistan is open to dialogue and is interested in expanding cooperation with all its partners in the way of peace, development and prosperity. Our country is interested in strengthening friendly and harmonious neighborly relations with the countries of the region, developing scientific-technical and cultural-humanitarian cooperation, strengthening relations between parliaments, border regions, public organizations and ordinary citizens.

It is worth noting that active participation in the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and other international organizations is in line with the national interests of our country and is considered one of the priorities of our foreign policy.

In addition, based on national interests and needs, Uzbekistan will continue to develop relations with leading international financial and economic organizations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the World Trade Organization, and others.

The openness of our country's policy and the focus on strengthening relations with neighboring countries created conditions for the formation of a healthy political environment in the region, and became an important factor in the consistent and at the same time fundamental improvement of interstate relations and multilateral forms of mutual cooperation.

It was an important event for the entire region that the consultative meetings of the leaders of the Central Asian countries were regularly held and became an effective platform for high-level regional dialogues. In order to deepen cooperation in the political sphere, the parties have started a forum of members of parliament, meetings of secretaries of the Security Councils, formats of intersectoral cooperation, international expert events, etc.

The very status of consultative meetings and active work within the framework of the relevant five-way platforms, as well as the real and tangible results of such cooperation, once again show that the countries intend to seriously and purposefully develop relations within the framework of the Central Asian “five”.

All this made it possible to fundamentally change the situation in Central Asia in a few years. First of all, it was achieved to eliminate existing complex and delicate problems related to border issues. Uzbekistan has completed the legal formalization of the border with Kazakhstan, delimited the border with Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Dozens of checkpoints on the border have resumed their activities, significantly facilitating the movement of people between our countries. Today, the borders between Uzbekistan and the Central Asian countries can rightly be called a bridge of friendship and good neighborliness. This is confirmed by the fact that starting from September 1, 2023, the procedure for crossing the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan border with the presentation of an ID card is valid. A similar project is being discussed with Kazakhstan. At the Astana summit, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev suggested mutual recognition of national ID cards in Central Asia and the development of mass tourism products based on the principle of “One type for the entire region”.

At the same time, we see significant progress in delineating the Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan border.

Today, an agreement has been reached on more than 90 percent of the total length of the border.

In other words, all this shows that acute, delicate and complex problems can be solved if, despite various disagreements, the parties follow the principles of mutual trust and willingness to make acceptable deals taking into account each other's interests.

The mechanism of “restarting the processes” that took place in our huge region was beneficial for everyone. Due to the high level of integration, the economy of the region is developing. The level of trade between cooperation and the region has increased significantly, relations with foreign partners have expanded [4].

In short, thanks to this, the new Uzbekistan is becoming the most important unifying actor of the Central Asian countries, its international reputation is increasing day by day. The assessment of the level of relations between them is not based on economic and political indicators in the classical sense, but on the new thing in international relations, trust and good neighborliness.

It is on the basis of these principles that Central Asia has been formed as a single region in recent years and has entered a new stage of its development in this important year.

4. Results

As President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev rightly recognized, “the path of sustainable development is the only right path for humanity.” The book contains a detailed analysis of 10 risks and threats to sustainable development.

First of all, geopolitical and geo-economics contradictions are intensifying in the ever-growing world, and efforts to resolve conflicts and conflicts arising in the system of international relations by force are increasing.

Secondly, climate change and the worsening of the ecological situation on our mother planet are associated with the reduction of biodiversity, environmental pollution and depletion of natural resources.

Frankly, today, environmental risks are approaching their “tipping point” day by day.

Thirdly, the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, which unexpectedly closed on humanity and killed millions of people, clearly demonstrated that the world's healthcare system and infrastructure are not ready to fight against such disasters and new types of infectious diseases.

Fourthly, the emergence of systemic disruptions in the global economy, the emergence of new barriers to free exchange in the fields of trade, investment and innovation, the derailment of the circulation of goods and services, and the increase in threats to energy security are becoming more and more evident.

Fifthly, threats to food security have become catastrophic, causing social upheaval and instability in many regions.

Sixthly, a number of new threats are emerging during the rapid transition to the fourth industrial revolution, the widespread use of digital technologies, including the “Internet of Things”, robotics, big data analysis and cyber-physical systems in life, the development of artificial intelligence and the rapid penetration of all aspects of human life.

Seventh, in the rapidly changing world, the scourge of corruption, which destroys any country and society from the inside, is a serious obstacle to the implementation of plans aimed at achieving the goals of sustainable development.

Eighth, in various regions of the world, a number of threats such as brutal competition, inter-ethnic conflicts, religious intolerance, discrimination, separatism, nationalism, radicalism, extremism and terrorism are becoming more and more intense, posing a serious threat to the peaceful life and sustainable development of mankind.

Ninth, International security and stable development of our region are directly related to the processes in Afghanistan.

Tenth, Persistent risks and threats that hinder the free movement of people, safe tourism and the development of modern sectors of the economy are also increasing.

5. Conclusion

The open foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan is aimed at preserving sovereignty and independence, and at the same time actively contributing to the development of economic and cultural relations with other countries. Based on its national interests, our country strives to ensure that all its actions in the international arena serve the benefit of our people and ensure a stable future.

Declarations

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Competing Interests Statement

The author has not declared any conflict of interest.

Consent for publication

The author declares that he/she consented to the publication of this study.

Authors' contributions

Author's independent contribution.

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